

**GUIDE FOR PLANNING**  
*the local*  
**VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM**



**UNITED STATES OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE**  
***Washington, D. C.***

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## Chapter I

# REPORT ON NATIONAL GARDEN CONFERENCE

A National Garden Conference called by Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, and Paul V. McNutt, Director of the Office of Defense, Health and Welfare Services, met in Washington, D. C., in December 1941. The large attendance and diligent committee work showed plainly that there was a wide interest in gardening as a wartime activity. The delegates attending the Conference represented garden associations and clubs, the garden press, seed, horticultural and allied trade associations and papers, the farm press, radio stations, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Federal Security Agency, the Office of Civilian Defense, the Work Projects Administration, national youth organizations, and other agencies. Discussion by the delegates revealed that there are already extensive farm home, community and school garden programs being carried on throughout the country by Government agencies, and that these programs will be expanded.

It was also apparent that there would be some expansion of home gardens. The conference agreed that due to the desirability of conserving seed, fertilizer, and spray material as well as the avoidance of disappointing results, home vegetable gardens should be confined to farms, small- and medium-sized towns, and suburban areas. It is recognized that while city gardening has health, recreational, and morale values, city back yards are seldom successful in the production of vegetables as the soil is usually poor and other conditions unfavorable. Therefore, it is desirable to continue the landscape improvement of city yards and not to destroy lawns and ornamental plantings for the sake of a few vegetables.

## Chapter II

# PURPOSE OF THE VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM

The Victory Garden Program will:

1. Increase the production and consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits by more and better home, school, and community gardens, to the end that we become a stronger and healthier Nation.
2. Encourage the proper storage and preservation of the surplus from such gardens for distribution and use by families producing it, local school lunches, welfare agencies, and for local emergency food needs.
3. Enable families and institutions to save on the cost of vegetables and apply this saving to other necessary foods which must be purchased.
4. Provide through the medium of community gardens, an opportunity for gardening by urban dwellers and others who lack suitable home garden facilities.
5. Maintain and improve the morale and spiritual well-being of the individual, family, and Nation.

The beautification of the home and community by gardening provides healthful physical exercise, recreation, definite release from war stress and strain.

## **Victory Gardens**

### **Chapter III**

## **PHASES OF THE PROGRAM**

Any person may take part in the Victory Garden Program by:

1. Helping with a school garden.
2. Helping in a neighbor's garden.
3. Helping in a community garden.
4. Growing a garden at your home.
5. Helping in the harvesting, storing, or preservation of vegetables and fruits for school or community uses.
6. Distributing donated flowers to hospitals, service camps, entertainment centers, invalids, shut-ins, and other people who otherwise may not have the enjoyment of flowers.
7. Making your home and neighborhood a more beautiful place in which to live by maintaining and improving the appearance of your home grounds and surrounding public areas.

### **Chapter IV**

## **WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM**

The kinds of workers needed will depend upon the type of program each community decides to undertake. The following list covers some of the jobs resulting from the adoption of a Victory Garden Program:

- Committee work on surveys and plans.
- Transportation of equipment and workers.
- Preparation of ground for planting.
- Planting.
- Cultivation.
- Control of insects and diseases.
- Pruning and thinning.
- Weeding.
- Harvesting.
- Transportation of produce.
- Transportation of flowers to hospitals and sick persons.
- Transportation of food for cooking and preserving.
- Food canning, preserving, drying, etc.
- Food storing, preparation of storage places.
- Collection and cleaning of containers for food preservation.
- Designing gardens and landscaping.
- Teaching and supervising the different branches of gardening.
- Teaching and supervising food cooking and preservation.
- Office work in enrolling volunteers in the garden program.
- Office work in preparing an inventory of land, labor, and materials.
- Publicity work.

## Chapter V

## THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE IN THE VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM

The Office of Civilian Defense with its defense councils and volunteer offices has the responsibility of directing volunteers who wish to engage in the Victory Garden Program to the leaders of existing garden activities for advice and instruction. These leaders may be county agricultural agents, Farm Security Administration supervisors, vocational agriculture, home economics and other teachers, and Work Projects Administration garden supervisors.

Before initiating any garden program locally, the defense councils should ascertain from the county extension agents, local school officials, and club organizations what garden activities and programs are being carried on and what organizations, agencies, or local leaders are responsible for such group activities.

However, where there is no organized garden program, and where there is a demand for one, the defense councils may find it advisable to help volunteer gardeners to organize an appropriate program. In such cases the guide for planning the local Victory Garden Program, containing as it does, references to State, Federal, and other trained and authoritative personnel, will be of particular assistance.

***Suggestions for the local defense council***

1. Appoint as Victory Garden chairman an experienced gardener with executive ability.
2. Assist the chairman of the Victory Garden Program in making contacts with all agencies, organizations, and individuals who might contribute to the program.

***Suggestions for the volunteer office***

1. Acquaint volunteers with purpose and opportunities for service in the Victory Garden Program.
  2. Refer to the Victory Garden chairman all interested and qualified volunteers.
- The defense council should assume these functions where there is no volunteer office.

## Chapter VI

## GUIDE FOR ORGANIZATION

- I. The local defense council should appoint an experienced gardener with executive ability as chairman of the Victory Garden committee.
- II. The Victory Garden chairman should select competent persons to act on the general committee as chairmen of the following subcommittees:
  1. Land, equipment, and supplies for gardening.
  2. Equipment and supplies for preservation and storage.
  3. Personnel and training.
  4. Publicity and information.
  5. Transportation.

## Victory Gardens

III. The Victory Garden committee should then undertake the following surveys:

1. Garden needs of the community. Determine what kinds, number, and extent of gardens advisable.
2. Land available and its suitability for garden purposes.
3. Equipment for growing, preservation, and storage of vegetables and fruits. See equipment listed on garden enrollment cards.
4. Trained personnel for supervision or instruction.
5. Responsible workers. See enrollment cards.
6. Available transportation for workers, equipment, and produce.
7. Information and publicity help available, bulletins, radio, etc.

IV. The Victory Garden committee will need to make the following decisions after studying the results of the surveys:

1. The kind and number of gardens to be grown. Classify them as to home, school, or community.
2. Who is to be responsible for the planning, supervision, and working of the different kinds of gardens and preservation projects.
3. What training courses are needed and who is to arrange for the courses and their instruction.
4. How to raise whatever funds are necessary.
5. Methods of:
  - (a) Cooperative use of equipment by various producing groups.
  - (b) Cooperative buying of supplies.
6. Methods to be followed in obtaining and distributing information such as bulletins, pamphlets, etc., on gardening and preservation issued by governmental and other agencies and in developing the necessary publicity.

V. Further duties of the Victory Garden committee:

1. Secure information listed under Victory Garden committee records and assign volunteers to work or to training courses.
2. Act as a clearing house for the information obtained in the surveys which the committee will find necessary.
3. Act as the distribution center for all information supplied by agencies working in the program.
4. Keep records of accomplishments that may be used in making reports.

## Chapter VII

### VICTORY GARDEN COMMITTEE RECORDS

To help the volunteer to find his most useful place in the Victory Garden Program, the Victory Garden committee should record in its files and make available to the chairmen of various subcommittees, the following information about each volunteer:

Name.

Address.

Telephone number.

Memberships in farm or garden organizations.

Kind and size of garden owned (vegetable, flower, fruit, ornamental, or combination).

Passenger car or truck available—indicate which.

Horse- or power-driven garden tools (plows, discs, harrows, seeders, etc.) available for loan or rent.

Canning, drying, preserving equipment available for loan or rent.

Suitable garden land available for loan or rent.

Sprayers or duster available for loan or rent.

Time available—day and hours.

Kind of service offered. See list of work opportunities.

Is training desired? (Yes or no.) In what kind of work?

Can you serve as instructor? (Yes or no.) In what subject? (Vegetable, ornamental, fruit, flower gardening, food cooking, food preservation.)

How much experience have you had in gardening?

How much experience have you had in food conservation?

## Chapter VIII

### POSSIBLE SOURCES OF HELP

The following persons and organizations are listed below according to the kinds of help or service they may be able to give to the local Victory Garden Program committee.

#### **1. Available and suitable land**

Real estate dealers.

Nearby farmers and large land owners.

Town or city officials.

Local boards of education.

Local garden and horticultural societies.

County agricultural agents.

Vocational agriculture teachers.

Local advisory committees of National Youth Administration.

#### **2. Equipment and supplies for gardening**

Local dealers in seeds, fertilizers, hardware, and farm implements.

Nearby farmers.

Local park and planning commissions.

Supervisors of local school gardens.

County agricultural agents.

Vocational agriculture teachers.

Civilian Conservation Corps.

Work Projects Administration—if demonstration garden.

Consumers Division, Office Price Administration.

Local advisory committees of National Youth Administration.

#### **3. Equipment and supplies for preservation and storage**

County and local nutrition committees.

Local dealers in hardware and household equipment.

Churches—kitchen equipment.

Board of education, home economics department equipment.

Defense housing kitchens.

County home demonstration agents.

Local ice and cold storage companies.

Local locker plant companies or organizations.

Local business concerns with storage facilities.

Rural Electrification Administration.

Surplus Marketing Administration.

Consumers Division, Office Price Administration.

Local committees of National Youth Administration.

Farm Security Administration.

Work Projects Administration.



## **Victory Gardens**

### ***4. Trained supervisors and instructors for gardening and food preservation***

County agricultural agents.  
County home demonstration agents.  
Leaders of local home demonstration clubs.  
Vocational agriculture, home economics and other teachers.  
Garden and horticultural organizations.  
Botanical gardens.  
The Grange.  
The Farm Bureau.  
National Federation of Colored Farmers.  
Local gardening and canning experts.  
State gardening specialists, extension service.  
State nutrition specialists, extension service.  
Local or State boards of education.  
Work Projects Administration.  
Local or State office of National Youth Administration and chairmen of local committees.  
Farm Security Administration.  
Local representative of the Federal Security Agency.

### ***5. Trained workers for gardening***

Volunteers enrolled by the volunteer office of local civilian defense office from groups such as:

Leaders and members of local home demonstration clubs.  
Garden and horticultural organizations.  
Future farmers of America.  
New Farmers of America.  
4-H Club members.  
Boy and Girl Scouts.  
Local advisory committees of National Youth Administration.  
Other groups and individuals.  
Paid workers from Work Projects Administration.

### ***6. Trained workers for food preservation and storage***

Volunteers enrolled by the volunteer office of local Civilian Defense office from groups such as:

County and local nutrition committees.  
Leaders and members of local home demonstration clubs.  
Women's clubs.  
4-H Club members.  
Girl Scouts.  
Camp Fire Girls.  
Local advisory committees of National Youth Administration.  
Other groups and individuals.  
Paid workers from Work Projects Administration.

## 7. *Publicity*

Newspaper editors—local, city, county.  
Radio station managers.  
Competent speakers.  
Advertising firms.  
Art departments of school (posters).  
Vocational classes in printing.  
Local movie theaters.  
Work Projects Administration (posters, etc.).  
National Youth Administration (posters, etc.).  
Local merchants window displays.  
Exhibitions and shows.  
Garden contests.  
School essay contests.

## Chapter IX

# TRAINING COURSES

Following a study of the volunteer enrollment cards and the report of the survey committee on personnel and training, it will be possible to determine the number and kinds of training courses desired.

Full use should be made of the experienced volunteers as well as the trained personnel of the Federal, State, and county educational and other organizations listed under "Possible Sources of Help."

Public buildings, clubs, churches, and private homes may be utilized as instruction centers and wherever possible demonstrations in the garden or kitchen should be used freely.

## Chapter X

# AN INTRODUCTORY LIST OF FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLICATIONS ON GARDENING

To secure the following publications write to: United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Victory Gardens. U. S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication 483.

The Farm Garden. U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 1673. 68 p. 1931.

Permanent Fruit and Vegetable Gardens. U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 1242. Rev. August, 1937. 20 p. 1937.

### *State Publications*

- Alabama** . . . The Home Garden. Alabama Extension Circular 134 rev. 26 p. September, 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.
- Arizona** . . . The Home Vegetable Garden in Arizona. Arizona Extension Circular 76 rev. 54 p. August, 1937. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.
- Arkansas** . . . Home Vegetable Gardens in Arkansas. Arkansas Extension Circular 140 rev. 30 p. June, 1940. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, 524 Post Office Building, Little Rock, Ark.
- California** . . . The Home Vegetable Garden. California Extension Circular 26. 40 p. February, 1929. Home Fruit Growing in California. California Extension Circular 117. 95 p. June, 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.
- Colorado** . . . Grow Your Own Vegetables. Colorado Extension Bulletin 311-A rev. 51 p. March, 1934. Address: Extension Service, Colorado State College of Agriculture, Fort Collins, Colo.
- Connecticut** . . . The Farm Home Garden. Connecticut Extension Bulletin 273. 8 p. March, 1939. Address: Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.
- Delaware** . . . Home Vegetable Gardening. Delaware Extension Bulletin 34. 54 p. March, 1941. Address: Extension Service, School of Agriculture, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.
- Florida** . . . Florida Home Garden. Florida Extension Bulletin 107. 16 p. May, 1941. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
- Georgia** . . . Vegetable Gardening in Georgia. Georgia Extension Bulletin 462. 39 p. February, 1937. Address: Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
- Illinois** . . . The Long-Row Farm Garden From Planting to Storage. Illinois Experiment Station Circular 325 reprint. Reprinted for use in Extension Service. Department of Horticulture. 20 p. November, 1938. Growing Fruit for Home Use. Illinois Extension Circular 482. 39 p. December, 1937. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
- Indiana** . . . Helps for the Home Garden. Indiana Extension Bulletin 238 rev. 12 p. March, 1940. The Family Garden. Indiana Extension Leaflet 222. 4 p. March, 1941. Address: Agricultural Extension, School of Agriculture, Purdue University, La Fayette, Ind.
- Iowa** . . . The Vegetable Garden. Iowa Extension Circular 245. 31 p. December, 1937. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

- Kansas** . . . . A Garden Guide for Farm and Town. Kansas Extension Circular 101 rev. 20 p. January, 1940. Home Fruit Production. Kansas Extension M. Circular 34, Processed. 4 p. 1941. Address: Division of Extension, Kansas State College of Agriculture, Manhattan, Kans.
- Kentucky** . . . . The Vegetable Garden. Kentucky Extension Circular 355. 31 p. 1940. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
- Louisiana** . . . . The Planned Vegetable Garden. Louisiana Well Gardened Home v. 1, No. 11 rev. 3 p. May, 1940. Louisiana's Garden Plan for a Family of Five. Louisiana Well Gardened Home v. 1, No. 16 rev. 1 p. May, 1940. The Fruit of the Land. Louisiana Food for Defense v. 1, No. 1. 4 p. December, 1940. Fruits for the Farm. Louisiana Extension Circular 218. 3 p. June, 1941. Address: Agricultural Extension, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.
- Maine** . . . . The Home Garden in Maine. Maine Extension Bulletin 262. 32 p. June, 1939. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.
- Maryland** . . . . The Small Vegetable Garden. Maryland Extension Bulletin 70 rev. 16 p. December, 1940. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
- Massachusetts** . . . . The Home Garden. 8 p. 1940. Massachusetts Extension Leaflet 59 p. rev. Address: Extension Service, Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Mass.
- Michigan** . . . . The Home Vegetable Garden. Michigan Extension Bulletin 4 rev. 53 p. 1940. Address: Extension Division, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.
- Minnesota** . . . . Vegetable Gardening. Minnesota Extension Bulletin 174 rev. and reprinted. 31 p. 1941. Growing Raspberries for Home Use. Minnesota Extension Bulletin 206. 12 p. January, 1940. Growing Strawberries in Minnesota. Minnesota Extension Bulletin 72 rev. 20 p. June, 1941. Address: Division Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.
- Mississippi** . . . . The Year-Round Home Garden. Mississippi Extension Bulletin 121. 69 p. April, 1941. Home Production of Small Fruits in Mississippi. 25 p. April, 1941. Mississippi Extension Bulletin 119. Address: Extension Service, Mississippi State College, State College, Miss.
- Missouri** . . . . Growing Fall Gardens. Missouri Extension Circular 349. 6 p. August, 1936. Growing Fruit for Family Use. Missouri Extension Circular 435. 24 p. November, 1941. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
- Montana** . . . . The Montana Farm Garden. Montana Extension Bulletin 196. 13 p. June, 1941. Address: Extension Service, Montana State College, Bozeman, Mont.

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- Nebraska** . . . . The Farm Vegetable Garden. Nebraska Extension Circular 1211 rev. 16 p. May, 1937. The Home Orchard and Fruit Garden. Nebraska Extension Circular 1231 rev. 24 p. 1938. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.
- Nevada** . . . . The Nevada Home Gardener's Handbook. A Manual for Beginners in Gardening. Nevada Extension Bulletin 87. 80 p. June, 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, University of Nevada, Reno, Nev.
- New Hampshire** . The Home Vegetable Garden. New Hampshire Extension Circular 170 rev. 16 p. 1939. Address: Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.
- New Jersey** . . . The Home Vegetable Garden. New Jersey Extension Bulletin 177 rev. 31 p. 1939. Address: Extension Service, State College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.
- New Mexico** . . . Growing the Home Garden. New Mexico Extension Circular 142 rev. 42 p. October, 1940. Un Jardin Vegetal para el Hogar. New Mexico Extension Circular 154 rev. 40 p. 1939. Address: Extension Service, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, State College, N. Mex.
- New York** . . . . The Home Garden. New York (Cornell) Extension Bulletin 344 rev. 56 p. March, 1940. Address: Extension Service, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.
- North Carolina** . The Farm and Home Garden Manual. North Carolina Extension Circular 122 rev. 22 p. April, 1939. Address: Extension Service, State College of Agriculture and Engineering, University of North Carolina, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.
- North Dakota** . . 1939 Vegetable Garden. North Dakota Extension Spec. Circ. (unnumbered). 2 p. April, 1939. Address: Extension Service, North Dakota Agricultural College, State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak.
- Ohio** . . . . . Home Gardening. Ohio Extension Bulletin 116, 9th ed. rev. 36 p. April, 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
- Oklahoma** . . . . Home Vegetable Garden. Oklahoma Extension Circular 196 rev. 40 p. 1941. Home Orchards in Oklahoma. Oklahoma Extension Circular 163 rev. 15 p. 1941. Address: Extension Division, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Okla.
- Oregon** . . . . . The Farm Vegetable Garden. Oregon Extension Bulletin 525. 8 p. February, 1939. Address: Federal Cooperative Extension Service, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Ore.
- Pennsylvania** . . The Family Vegetable Garden. Pennsylvania Extension Circular 120 rev. 42 p. January, 1939. Address: Division of Agricultural Extension, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

- South Carolina** . . . Home Garden Handbook. South Carolina Extension Circular 181. 16 p. March, 1940. The Farm Orchard. South Carolina Extension Bulletin 89. 24 p. September, 1939. Address: Extension Service, Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina, Clemson, S. C.
- South Dakota** . . . Planning and Growing the Family Food Supply. South Dakota Extension Circular 372. 16 p. January, 1938. Questions and Answers on Fruit Culture. South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Circular 35. 30 p. June, 1941. Address: Extension Service, South Dakota State College Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, Brookings, S. Dak.
- Tennessee** . . . Better Crops and Methods in the Farm Garden. Tennessee Extension Publication 230 rev. 8 p. January, 1941. Pointers for the Small Orchardist. Tennessee Extension Publication 150 rev. 16 p. 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Texas** . . . Gardening. Texas Extension Bulletin B-70. 16 p. April, 1940. Address: Extension Service, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station, Tex.
- Utah** . . . The Farm and Home Vegetable Garden. Utah Extension New Series Circular 93. 12 p. March, 1937. Address: Extension Service, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.
- Vermont** . . . Good Gardening in Vermont. Vermont Extension Circular 82. 24 p. April, 1935. Growing Fruit for Home Use in Vermont. Vermont Extension Brieflet 459. 12 p. January, 1937. Processed. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.
- Washington** . . . Home Gardens. Washington Extension Bulletin 202 rev. 7 p. April, 1939. Address: Extension Service, State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash.
- West Virginia** . . . The Home Garden. West Virginia Extension Circular 317. 16 p. March, 1937. Conserve Health and Wealth With Fruits. West Virginia Extension Good Living Series VIII. Lesson No. 4 (A). 6 p. 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.
- Wisconsin** . . . Home Vegetable Gardens. Wisconsin Extension Circular 254 rev. 23 p. June, 1939. Farm Orchards. Wisconsin Extension Circular 265 rev. 32 p. June, 1940. Strawberry Growing in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Extension Circular 268 rev. 16 p. 1940. Growing Raspberries and Blackberries in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Extension Circular 280 rev. 16 p. October, 1940. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
- Wyoming** . . . Fruit Raising in Wyoming. Wyoming Extension Circular 58. 16 p. January, 1935. Address: Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.

